

Commercial and Industrial Buildings,

Ambrose Gleed Malthouse
75 South Locust Street
Dubuque
Dubuque County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-160-E

HABS
IOWA,
31-DUBU,
13-E-

**PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver Colorado 80225

Ambrose Glead Malthouse

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31 - DUBUQUE,
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Site Location: 75 South Locust Street
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 2.19
Cadastral grid : NE1/4 SE1/4 S25 T89N R2E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'
UTM coordinates: 15.691840.4706720
Lot dimensions : 124'8"x 282': .81 acre
Lot description: City Lots 578A, 579, 579A
Present Owner: Iowa Department of Transportation
Present Usage: warehouse
Present Condition : fair

Overall Dimensions: 96'x 97'; 1 story

Orientation : east

Architectural

Description :

Plan type : original: a 4-story rectangle, 28'x 120' with no major projections or wings. Due to numerous alterations and additions, the building now forms and irregular L-shape, with a stepped facade. One-story with three-story block at rear.

Foundation: coursed limestone blocks, parged.

Structure : iron/wood frame, with brick and concrete block bearing walls.

Ext. walls: original: red brick laid in common bond; add.: buff brick and painted concrete block.

Roof : flat; with terra cotta coping or wood fascia (original roof demolished with upper floors).

Chimneys : brick chimney in east wall of malt kiln block.

Windows : original: wood 4/4 double-hung with brick segmental arch heads and stone lug sills (most openings now infilled with brick); east wall of front addition with one large, fixed light, 1/1 double hung paired and single 1/1 double hung, all with rowlock brick slip sills; two 4-light fixed windows with slip sills, high on the east face of the concrete block addition.

Openings : wood office door on south wall of the front addition with fixed light over three panels; hollow core door south of this on concrete block wall; two segmental garage doors with loading docks line the east wall of the block addition.

Porches : concrete stair leads to a stoop at the office door, three steps branch from this to a lower stoop for the door in the block side addition; cantilevered metal awning covers this stoop.

Details : Most original architectural detailing has been removed or obscured by subsequent alterations and demolitions.

Construction Date : 1873-74

Architecture style: 19th Century Functional

Physical History : Ignatius Seeger established the City Brewery on South Locust Street, immediately south of this property, about 1852. Seeger operated the small brewery as a single proprietorship until 1868, at which time he joined with Frank Brady, A. Reichman and Ambrose Gleed to form the Dubuque Joint Stock Bier Brewing Company. The partnership prospered under Gleed's directorship for five years. A liquor and wine wholesaler in Dubuque since 1852, Ambrose Gleed maintained a shop and warehouse at 25 Main Street. There he also manufactured bitters under the brand name "Diamond G" - the G stood for Gleed. "As a wholesale establishment of this kind there is none more extensive in the city," the Dubuque City Directory stated about Gleed in 1870. "Nor a wholesale dealer who has a better business character and reputation. His increasing sales are a proof of his fair dealing, but more particularly an evidence that the quality of his goods is appreciated by the purchasers."

In 1873 the brewery employed thirteen men and produced 4524 barrels of ale, porter and lager, for a gross of over \$46,000. That year Gleed bought the business, property and buildings from the other stockholders. Even before the ownership change was filed with the county clerk in December 1873, Gleed had begun construction of this brick malthouse north of the brewery. As the four-story brick structure was nearing completion in November, the *Dubuque Daily Herald* reported: "The establishment, when duly furnished with machinery, will be one of the most substantial and fine appearing edifices in the city." Gleed completed the building early in 1874 at a reported cost of \$13,000 and operated it in conjunction with his brewery.

Measuring 28'x 120', the iron-framed structure housed malt floors in the basement and on the second floor, with grain storage on the first, third and fourth floors. The office was located at street level in the southeast corner, facing Locust. The brick/iron malt kiln was located at the building's rear, heated by steam and coal stoves and connected to the city water works. Kerosene lanterns provided light, and small coal stoves heated the basement and office. At its completion the malthouse was projected to produce some 4000 bushels of malt per year. Gleed built a two-story stone/wood cooperage and a U-shaped open frame shed as ancillary structures immediately south of the malthouse.

Gleed ran the City Brewery and malthouse only a short time before experiencing financial difficulty. With competition from Anton Heeb's Dubuque Brewery and Michael Blumenauer's Iowa Brewery - both larger plants located on Couler Avenue - he ceased business in 1876. The facilities were sold separately under foreclosure: the brewery to John Pier and the malthouse to George H. Brooks. Brooks in turn sold the malthouse in 1880 to John B. Ricketts for \$4500. The

brewery was destroyed by fire within four years; Ricketts operated the malt business until about 1890. During that time he made a number of minor changes to the buildings. Ricketts razed the open shed south of the malthouse and built two small frame sheds in its place, he removed the single-story frame addition on the south side of the malthouse and, finally, he erected a larger, metal-sided addition on the north. Ricketts' closing marked the last use of the structure as a malthouse. In 1896 William N. Adams bought the building in foreclosure and four years later sold it to real estate speculator Joseph J. Nagle. The building remained vacant until the Collis Company acquired it through a sales agreement in 1907. Incorporated in April 1907 for the "manufacture, purchase and sale of all kinds of machinery," the Collis Company was operated briefly by George and O.D. Collis under the alternate name of the High Speed Drill Company as a machine shop. The building then stood vacant again for almost 30 years until Sam and Meyer Marmis and David Solomon bought it for \$1500 in 1934. The three men used the malthouse as the headquarters for Marmis and Solomon, a junkyard, until recent acquisition by the Iowa Department of Transportation for demolition.

Since Ricketts' ownership, the structure has undergone extensive alterations. The upper 2-1/2 stories have been removed from the front part of the building, one story removed from the malt kiln at the rear. A single-story concrete block addition was added to the south side of the building for waste paper storage, probably soon after its purchase by Marmis and Solomon, and a one-story metal frame storage shed was built behind the malt kiln. Finally, a new brick extension was added to the front in 1956 for the business office.

Significance: The Ambrose Glead Malthouse is historically important as one of the earliest surviving remnants of Dubuque's malting and brewing industry. Architecturally, it represents typical 19th century industrial style and structure. Numerous subsequent alterations have compromised the structure's integrity, however, substantially decreasing its interpretive value.

References: Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1879, 1884, 1891, 1909, 1972.
Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-24-2-49&50.
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."
Land Title Abstract (located at Iowa Department of Transportation, Ames Iowa).
Franklin T. Oldt and P.J. Quigley, *History of Dubuque County, Iowa* (Chicago: Goodspeed Historical Association, 1911), page 678.
Dubuque Daily Herald: 1 January 1881; 9 November 1873; 1 January 1874; 22 November 1874.

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